

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO:3; and

~~(e) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the complement of (a) or (b) at (i) 42°C in a buffer comprising 0.015M sodium chloride, 0.0015M sodium citrate and 50% formamide, followed by at least one but not more than two washes in 2x SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for not more than 20 minutes, followed by a wash in 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for not more than 10 minutes, or (ii) at 65-68°C in a buffer comprising 0.015M sodium chloride and 0.0015M sodium citrate, followed by at least one but not more than two washes in 2x SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for not more than 20 minutes, followed by a wash in 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for not more than 10 minutes, and wherein the encoded polypeptide, when heterodimerized to human $\alpha 2$ polypeptide, is capable of regulating thyroidal function or promoting thyroid differentiation or proliferation;~~

(d) a nucleotide sequence complementary to any of (a), (b), or (c).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 Claims 1, 2, or 3.

5. (Original) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 4.

6. (Original) The host cell of Claim 5 that is a eukaryotic cell.
7. (Original) The host cell of Claim 5 that is a prokaryotic cell.
8. (Previously amended) A process of producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 5 under suitable conditions to express the polypeptide, and optionally isolating the polypeptide from the culture.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously amended) The process of Claim 8, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises promoter DNA operatively linked to the DNA encoding the polypeptide, wherein the promoter DNA is not the native promoter DNA.
11. (Canceled)
- Claims 12 - 46. (Canceled)
47. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 ~~Claims 1, 2, or 3~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.
48. (Original) A composition of Claim 47 wherein said nucleic acid molecule is contained in a viral vector.
49. (Currently amended) A viral vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 ~~Claims 1, 2, or 3~~.
50. (Currently amended) A fusion polypeptide comprising a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 ~~Claims 1, 2, or 3~~ fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

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51. (Original) The fusion polypeptide of Claim 50 wherein the heterologous amino acid sequence is an IgG constant domain or fragment thereof.

Claims 52 - 60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently amended) A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 ~~Claim 1, 2, or 3~~, and at least one nucleic acid molecule encoding human $\alpha 2$ polypeptide.

Claims 62 - 64. (Canceled)

65. (Canceled)

Claims 66 - 99. (Canceled)